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10/035,112	12/20/2001	Tatsuo Nomura	70904/56820	1680

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EXAMINER

LAM, ANDREW H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/035,112

Applicant(s)

NOMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew H. Lam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 02/23/06.
- Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 21-23 are new.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe (U.S Patent No. 5,956,160) hereinafter Watanabe.

Regarding claim 21, Watanabe discloses an image forming system (fig. 1, image forming system), including a first unit (fig. 1, scanner unit 101) and a second unit (fig. 1, printer unit 102), where one of the first unit and the second unit is operable to form an image on a recording medium (inherently printer 102 record image on recording medium), and the other of the first unit and the second unit is operable to optically read a document image (inherently scanner 101 can optically read (scan) a document), and further where the first unit and second unit are operable in a combination in a systematic manner as a system (fig. 10A, shows a cable 1001 for connecting the scanner with the printer to be used as a combination ,col. 6, lines 36-38), wherein: the first unit and the second unit each comprise a display section (fig. 1, display section 103

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and display section 102a), and the first unit includes a control section (fig. 8, controller 100) for controlling each of the display sections (col. 5, lines 32-35, control section 100, controls display for printer and scanner, respectively as stated in the prior paragraphs) in such a manner that at least one of the display sections has different display formats for a non-systematic manner (fig. 1, for non-systematic display the unit of the scanner would display formats for the scanner using the display unit 103 while the printer unit would display the status of the printer by using the display 102a) and for the systematic manner (col. 3, lines 26-31, the display 103 as part of the scanner can be used for displaying information of both the scanner unit 101 and the printer unit 102).

Regarding claim 22, Watanabe discloses an image forming system (fig. 1, image forming system), including a printer (fig. 1, printer unit 102) for forming an image on a recording medium (inherently printer 102 record image on recording medium) and a scanner (fig. 1, scanner unit 101) for optically reading a document image (inherently scanner 101 can optically read (scan) a document), where the printer and the scanner are used in a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are operable in combination as a system (fig. 10A, shows a cable 1001 for connecting the scanner with the printer to be used as a combination ,col. 6, lines 36-38), wherein: the image forming system comprises a detecting section (fig. 8, scanner controller 100a) for detecting section for detecting a connection or disconnection of the printer with the scanner (col. 5, lines 55-65, detecting to see if the system is a stand-alone or integral part of the image forming system); the printer and the scanner each comprises a user interface section (fig. 1, interface 103 and 102a) composed of a display section and an operation

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section (col. 5, lines 20-32, display error to user and operation display 103); and the image forming system further comprises a control section (fig. 8, control section 100) for controlling the respective user interface sections when the detecting section detects a connection of the printer with the scanner (col. 5, lines 20-32), such that display for the system can be performed entirely on either one of the user interfaces, and input for the system can be performed entirely on either one of the user interfaces (col. 5, lines 20-32).

Regarding claim 23, Watanabe discloses an image forming system (fig. 1, image forming system), including a first unit (fig. 1, scanner unit 101) and a second unit (fig. 1, printer unit 102), where one of the first unit and the second unit is operable to form an image on a recording medium (inherently printer 102 record image on recording medium), and the other of the first unit and the second unit is operable to optically read a document image (inherently scanner 101 can optically read (scan) a document), and further where the first unit and second unit are operable in a combination in a systematic manner as a system (fig. 10A, shows a cable 1001 for connecting the scanner with the printer to be used as a combination ,col. 6, lines 36-38), wherein: the image forming system comprises a detecting section (fig. 8, scanner controller 100a)for detecting a connection or disconnection of the first unit with the second unit (col. 5, lines 55-65, detecting to see if the system is a stand-alone or integral part of the image forming system); the first unit and the second unit each comprises a user interface section (fig. 1, interface 103 and 102a) composed of an display section and an operation section (col. 5, lines 20-32, display error to user and operation display 103);

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and the image forming system further comprises a control section (fig. 8, control section 100) for controlling the respective user interface sections when the detecting section detects a connection of the printer with the scanner (col. 5, lines 20-32), such that display for the system can be performed entirely on either one of the user interfaces, and input for the system can be performed entirely on either one of the user interfaces (col. 5, lines 20-32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Shunsuke et al. (J.P. Application No. 11-030143) hereinafter Shunsuke.

Regarding claim 1, Watanabe discloses an image forming system (fig. 1, image forming system), including a printer (fig. 1, printer unit 102) for forming an image on a recording medium (inherently printer 102 record image on recording medium) and a scanner (fig. 1, scanner unit 101) for optically reading a document image (inherently scanner 101 can optically read (scan) a document), where the printer and the scanner are used in a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system (fig. 10A, shows a cable 1001 for connecting the scanner with the printer to be used as a combination ,col. 6, lines 36-38), wherein: the printer (fig. 1,

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display section 102a can be LCD or LED display col. 3, line 35) and the scanner(fig. 1, operation display section 103) respectively comprises a display section (fig. 1, operation display section 103).

Watanabe does not disclose an image forming system wherein the printer includes a control section for controlling the respective display sections in such a manner that at least one of the display sections is so controlled as to have different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner.

Shunsuke discloses an image forming system wherein the printer includes a control section (fig. 3, CPU 401, controls the display of the printer 104-2 and scanner 104-1) for controlling the respective display sections in such a manner that at least one of the display sections is so controlled as to have different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner (detail description, paragraphs 10, 14-15 and 48-52).

Watanabe and Shunsuke are combinable because they are from a similar field of integrating a peripheral unit (scanner unit) with a printer unit.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine a control section for controlling the displays of the scanner unit and the printer unit as taught by Shunsuke with the integration of the main unit and the peripheral unit.

The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the user to easily see the display of the error message or how to troubleshooting an error message, i.e., the error message that was displayed on the LCD of the scanner unit is now displayed on the

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LCD of the printer unit, therefore the user can easily see the error message or instruction on the LCD of the printer unit when the user is squatting down to open the panel of the printer during troubleshooting (detail description, paragraphs 51 and 52).

Regarding claim 2, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein one of the display sections of the printer and the scanner shows information regarding the whole system, when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as the system (col. 3, lines 30-31, the user can learn about the state of the system by only checking the display of the scanner unit).

Regarding claim 3, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the display section of the scanner (col. 3, lines 30-31, the user can learn about the state of the system by only checking the display of the scanner unit) is the display section that displays the information regarding the whole system, when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as the system.

Regarding claim 4, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the display section that displays the information regarding the whole system when the printer and the scanner are used in combination in a system has a larger display screen than the other display section (fig.1, operation display section 103 which is used to display the state of the system is larger than the display 102a of the printer system, see fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, the combination discloses [Shunsuke] the image forming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the scanner includes a large-sized display section (fig. 1, display 11), which can display drawings (fig. 4), so that detailed

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information of the printer can be displayed on the large-sized display section of the scanner, when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as the system (detail description, paragraphs 41 and 44).

Regarding claim 6, the combination [Shunsuke] discloses that the image forming system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the printer includes a control section (fig. 3, cpu 401) for controlling the large-sized display section of the scanner, the control section having a display information storing section for storing (fig. 3, memory 102), in advance, display information for display on the large-sized display section, providing for a case where the printer is used in combination with the scanner (detail description paragraph 27).

Regarding claim 7, the combination [Shunsuke] discloses the image forming system as set forth in claim 5, wherein display information for displaying the detailed information of the printer on the large-sized display section is installed in the printer when the printer and the scanner are used in combination (detail description, paragraphs 27 and 41), where the detailed information can be installed by post-installation.

Regarding claim 8, the combination [Shunsuke] discloses the image forming system (fig. 1, scanner integrated with printer) as set forth in claim 1, wherein the printer and the scanner respectively include a user interface section composed of the display section and an operation section therein (fig. 1, printer display 21 and scanner display 11), the image forming system further comprising: a detecting section (detail description, paragraph 24, cpu detects or control every unit section) for detecting

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connection of the printer and the scanner when the printer and the scanner are connected together as the system (detail description, paragraphs 9-14, scanner and printer connected as a unit or unitization) , or disconnection of the printer and the scanner when the printer and the scanner are disconnected from each other; and a control section for inactivating one of the user interfaces section of the printer and the scanner when the detection section detects the connection of the printer and the scanner (detail description, paragraph 42).

Regarding claim 9, the combination [Shunsuke] discloses the image forming system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the control section inactivates the user interface section of the printer, when the detection section detects the connection of the printer and the scanner (detail description, paragraph 42).

Regarding claim 10, the combination [Shunsuke] discloses the image forming system as set forth in claim 8, the control section inactivates the user interface section of one of the printer and the scanner that is installed above the other (see fig. 1), when the detection section detects the connection of the printer and the scanner (detail description, paragraph 42).

Regarding claim 11, the combination [Watanabe] discloses the image forming system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the control section activates a user interface section that has been inactivated until then, when the detection section detects the disconnection of the printer and the scanner (col. 5, lines 60-61, the scanner can operate separately--it is obvious that if the two devices are disconnected the display of each devices will be reactivated to work independently of each other).

Regarding claim 12, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the detection section has a function for detecting whether or not the scanner and the printer are connected as the system, when power is supplied (col. 6, lines 35-37, the device is connected thru a cable 1001 which exchange various types of control signals between the scanner and the printer when the power is supplied to the devices therefore it is implicit that the device detects that it is connected to each other since the printer is able to send the scanner it display).

Regarding claim 13, the combination discloses [Shunsuke] the image forming system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the one of the printer and the scanner whose user interface section is inactivated when the scanner and the printer is used in combination as the system includes a detailed information display section (see fig. 6, detail display section) and a simple information display section (see fig. 5), wherein the control section inactivates only the detailed information display section when the user interface section is inactivated (detail description, paragraphs 40-46).

Regarding claim 14, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 1, the display sections of the printer and the scanner seem to be at least partly next to each other with respect to a direction from which the user is expected to view the display sections (fig. 1, display unit 103 is partly next to display 102a).

Regarding claim 15, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 14, wherein information indicated by a change in a color is displayed on the display section of the printer (col. 3, line 32, display 102a can be LED--

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inherently when an LED is used as a display it can blink continuously or stay solid in any color to show that an event has occurred), when an operation state of the printer is changed.

Regarding claim 16, Watanabe discloses the image forming system as set forth in claim 15, wherein information of an operation state of the printer indicated by a character (col. 5, lines 26-28, an error in and status of the printer unit 102 are display on the LCD section 701--see fig. 7, display 701 show state of printer display in character), a mark or a design is displayed on a part of the display section of the scanner, when an operation state of the printer is changed.

Regarding claim 17, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 16, when the operation state of the printer is changed, changed in a synchronizing manner are (a) the information of the operation state of the printer indicated by the character, the mark or the design, displayed on the display section of the scanner (col. 5, lines 26-28, an error in and status of the printer unit 102 are display on the LCD section 701--see fig. 7, display 701 show state of printer display in character), and (b) the information indicated by the change in the color displayed (col. 3, line 32, display 102a can be LED--inherently when an LED is used as a display it can blink continuously or stay solid in any color to show that an event has occurred) on the display section of the printer (col. 5, lines 26- 32, when an error occurred the message is display at the scanner display unit 103 and the printer display unit 103).

Regarding claim 18, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the printer and the scanner shares one of the

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display sections thereof for displaying information regarding the whole system when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as the system (col. 3, lines 26-31, the display 103 as part of the scanner can be used for displaying information of both the scanner unit 101 and the printer unit 102), wherein the one of the printer and the scanner, which includes the display section shared in case of the formation of the system, comprises a first control section (fig. 8, display controller 103a), while the other of the printer and the scanner comprises a second control section (fig. 8, printer controller 100c), where the first control section and the second control section are connected together via a bus line (col. 6, lines 33-35, a signal cable 1001b for supplying video signals), so that, when the system is controlled by the second control sections, the first control section prepares a display data in accordance with instructions from the second control section (col. 3, lines 26-31, the display 103 as part of the scanner can be used for displaying information of both the scanner unit 101 and the printer unit 102), and supplies the display data to the shared display section, in case the system has a predetermined operation state that requires display of instructions on the display section.

Regarding claim 19, the combination discloses [Watanabe] the image forming system as set forth in claim 18, wherein the predetermined operation state is common to when the system is controlled by the first control section and when the system is controlled by the second control section (fig. 7, the display at the first control section is predetermined for the printer and the scanner i.e. the scanner and the printer functions are shown in the same display).

Regarding claim 20, the combination discloses [Shunsuke] the image forming system as set forth in claim 18, wherein there is a preset priority order between a display data prepared by the first control section and a display data prepared by the second control section, so that the first control section selects which of the display data is to be supplied to the shared display section in accordance with the priority order, when the display data of the first control section and that of the second control section are prepared at a same time (detail description, paragraphs 38-43--it is obvious that the scanner is the prefers display when the printer and the scanner are used in combination, i.e., the scanner display has priority over the printer display).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments on pages 9-13, filed 02/23/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-4 and 14-19 under 102(b) and claims 5-7 under 130(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art references due to newly amended limitations as cited in claim 1.

Contact Information

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew H. Lam whose telephone number is (571) 272-8569. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (571) 272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Andrew Lam 5/1/06
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KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER